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Sent: Monday, October 26, 2009 2:20 PM

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Subject: HB 5334

Honorable Representative,

The Michigan Recycling Coalition and Composting Council oppose HB 5334. I have attached the Michigan Recycling Coalition's Position Statement on the bill for your review. But I'd also like to take this opportunity to delve into some remaining issues.

The practice of adding more methane generating substances to the landfill and using technology to convert landfill gas into electricity, scrubbing the very odiferous and volatile chemical laden gas so it can be sold, has not been adequately demonstrated as a economically or environmentally sustainable endeavor. During a guided tour of Granger's Landfill Gas & Production facility in Lansing, members were told that the landfill is generating 8.8 mW of energy per hour, that they use 4.2 mW to run their business and the remaining 4.6 mW of energy is available for sale to the utility. If Granger is using half of the energy they produce to run their operation then how can they produce enough energy to provide energy to 10,000 residential homes? The average home consumes approximately 60 kWh. With the remaining 4,600 kWh generated by Granger, they could only serve 76 homes. The return on investment, in terms of energy production, has not been demonstrated. The re-redirection of yard waste back into the landfill is however, a proven revenue generator for landfills.

While we endorse landfill gas capture to reduce greenhouse gas release to the atmosphere, we do not think that the potential utility benefits warrant changing the Natural Resources Act and undercutting the value of the compost industry. Michigan has 50 landfills, 36 or 72% of which have active gas collection capabilities and could ramp up to meet the requirements of this bill rather quickly. Michigan is home to more than 200 composting facilities. This bill would cripple the composting industry, forcing layoffs in communities of all sizes throughout the state and more bankruptcies. The bill would give an unfair advantage to exempted landfills and waste haulers by allowing them to comingle the collection of solid waste and yard waste. It reduces the state's already low recycling rate and further, contradicts the current State Solid Waste Policy

The global call for solid waste management is zero waste. If we answer that call where is the future role of this technology? Composting, on the other hand, is a renewable technology where the end product is immediately usable and has a economic and environmental value that benefits residents, businesses, and industry throughout this state.

Let's not squander our investment in composting by propping up the landfill industry. Thank you for your consideration.

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